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REMARKS

The claims now pending in the application are Claims 1 to 10 and 81 to 90, the independent claims being Claims 1 and 6. Claims 11 to 80 have been cancelled herein. Claims 1 to 10 have been amended herein. Claims 81 to 90 are newly presented herein.

In the Official Action dated April 23, 2004, newly presented Claims 11 to 80 were withdrawn from consideration, pursuant to a restriction requirement, under the doctrine of original presentation; the drawings were objected to under 37 CFR § 1.83(a), as failing to illustrate various features added by amendment to original Claims 1 to 10 and as presented in new Claims 11 to 80, and amended Claims 1 to 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as not supported by the original disclosure. Claims 1 to 3 and 6 to 8 further were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,473,373 (Hwung), and Claims 4, 5, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over the Hwung '373 patent. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections respectfully are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Without conceding the Examiner's basis for the Restriction Requirement and resulting election by original presentation, or the Examiner's characterization of the various claim features and rejection of the claims for lack of support for such features in the original disclosure, Claims 1 to 10 further have been amended herein more clearly to recite various novel features of the present invention, Claims 11 to 80 have been cancelled herein, and newly presented Claims 81 to 90 have been added herein to provide Applicant with an additional scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure and consistent with the Examiner's Restriction Requirement. Applicant reserves all rights to the subject matter recited in prior amended Claims 1 to 10 and cancelled Claims 11 to 80, including the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter recited therein.

In this regard, Applicant also acknowledges the Examiner's related formal objection to the drawings and formal rejections of Claims 1 to 80. However, Applicant submits the formal objection and rejection are moot in view of the above-discussed amendments.

The rejections of the claims over the cited art respectfully are traversed. Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the rejections, Claims 1 to 10 have been amended herein more clearly to recite various novel features of the present invention, with particular attention to the Examiner's comments, and newly presented Claims 81 to 90 have been added to provide Applicant with an additional scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. Support for the proposed amendments may be found in the original application. No new matter has been added.

The present invention relates to a novel signal processing apparatus and method. In one aspect, as now recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to a signal processing apparatus which can output a brightness signal and a color signal, comprising a first gamma converting circuit which performs first gamma conversion to the color signal, a second gamma converting circuit which performs second gamma conversion to the brightness signal, where a characteristic of the second gamma conversion is different from a characteristic of the first gamma conversion; and a bit adjustment circuit which adjusts the number of bits of the color signal gamma-converted by the first gamma converting circuit.

Independent Claim 6, as amended, recites similar/parallel features with respect to a signal processing method.

Applicant submits that the prior art fails to anticipate the present invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

The Hwung '373 patent relates to a digital gamma correction system for low, medium and high intensity video signals, with linear and non-linear correction, and discloses an image capture and display system containing a three-stage digital gamma correction circuit. However, Applicant submit that the Hwung '373 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features of the present invention. In particular, Applicant submits that the Hwung '373 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the features of a first gamma converting circuit (step) which performs first gamma conversion to the color signal, a second gamma converting circuit (step) which performs second gamma conversion to the brightness signal, where a characteristic of the second gamma conversion is different from a characteristic of the first gamma conversion, and a bit adjustment circuit (step) which adjusts the number of bits of the color signal gamma-converted by the first gamma converting circuit, as disclosed and claimed in the present application. Rather, the Hwung '373 patent merely discloses a gamma circuit which performs gamma correction to the brightness of a CRT.

The other art of record is not understood to remedy the deficiencies of the Hwung '373 patent.

For the above reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1 and 6 are allowable over the cited art.

Claims 2 to 5, 7 to 10 and 81 to 90 depend from Claims 1 and 6, respectively, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective base claim, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

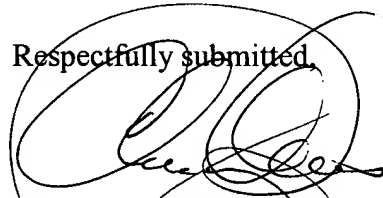
Applicant requests that the present Amendment be entered under 37 CFR § 1.116. Applicant submits that the present amendments merely are minor or formal in nature, and reduce the number of claims and issues for consideration. Applicant believes the present

Amendment was necessitated by the outstanding Official Action, and submits that the present amendments were not previously made because Applicant believes the prior claims are allowable.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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